

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 INR-07 SCA-01 H-02 L-03 SS-15

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SY-05 /056 W

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R 020913Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR CASC ET US (HANNA, RICHARD)

SUBJECT: HANNA CASE

REF: A. STATE 122246; B. ADDIS 6008

1. DURING CALL BE AMB ON FONMIN KIFLE MAY 31, LATTER SAID HE NOW HOPED TO HAVE RESOLUTION OF HANNA CASE BEFORE AMB'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATION JUNE 3. HE SAID PROBLEM IS THAT MILITARY PROSECUTOR SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT SOME COURT ACTION AGAINST HANNA IS NECESSARY IN LIGHT OF SENTENCING OF TWO ARMENIANS WHO WERE INVOLVED WITH HANNA IN ILLEGAL CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS. IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT, ACCORDING TO PROSECUTOR, TO LET HANNA OFF FREE. "WE ARE ARGUING WITH HIM," SAID KIFLE.

2. AMB COUNTERED THAT IT IS EMBASSY UNDERSTANDING THAT HANNA HAD COOPERATED FULLY WITH PROSECUTION, AND HIS TESTIMONY AGAINST ARMENIANS HAD BEEN GIVEN ON UNDERSTANDING HE WOULD OBTAIN LENIENCY. IN ANY EVENT, GOE IS STILL IN VIOLATION OF AER TREATY IN ITS TREATMENT OF HANNA, AND CASE HAS ASSUMED SERIOUS PROPORTIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH PROSPECT OF MATERIAL DAMAGE TO US-GOE RELATIONS IF NOT SETTLED VERY SOON.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS EXHAUSTED AVAILABLE LEVERAGE HERE. IF DEPT WISHES TO MAKE FURTHER MOVES, WE CAN ONLY REITERATE OUR PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION THAT STRONG AND DIRECT STATEMENT OF CONSEQUENCES BE DELIVERED ORALLY AND IN WRITING BY ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE TO CHARGE IN WASHINGTON. NOTHING LESS THAN THIS
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WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THIS HARD-NOSED AND DIVIDED GOVERNMENT.

WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO ESTIMATE THE CHANCES THAT MODERATES SUCH AS
PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI AND FONMIN KIFLE WILL PREVAIL OVER MORE
HOSTILE ELEMENTS IN THIS CASE. DEPT SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT WE
HAVE HEARD INDIRECTLY FROM SOURCE FRIENDLY TO HANNA THAT ATTEMPT
MAY BE MADE ONCE MORE TO TRY HANNA "FOR ILLEGAL TRANSMISSION
OF (RADIO) MESSAGES."
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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